

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

Chy

1887.

Sir:

I beg to direct your attention to the disabilities under which the Cashier labors in preparing the payment of the rolls.

Owing to extensive payments on the 1st of the month, the adjustment of from two hundred to three hundred and fifty separate accounts is forced upon the Cashier. Such an adjustment, coupled with the necessity for counting the money twice in bulk for each roll, and twice for each payer, necessitates time and great care. A blunder may let the Cashier in for a loss which cannot be reimbursed.

After the rolls leave the Clerk of the Rolls and the bookkeeper they go to the auditor (Mr. Blummer) for recalculation and verification. This is all done before the rolls can reach the Cashier, and were it a fact that the rolls began to reach the Cashier on the second day of the month

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and regularly thereafter until all were through, and if the last rolls reached the cashier on the 4th day of the month in time to be adjusted before the daily settlement, payment could be made on the 5th of the month. But as a fact the September rolls reached us regularly, not until the 4th inst., and the heaviest rolls, which needed adjustment in about 150 cases, only reached us on the 5th, the last at a quarter of three o'clock. It was impossible to serve the books and papers and balance sheets on the bookkeeper at a proper time and adjust those rolls; and in handling money it is absolutely necessary to have a regular time for closing against all concerns. This is observed elsewhere, and as our transactions are large and generally numerous, the reason why we should observe a regular closing hour is stronger than it is in very many departments of the Treasury.

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I also desire to direct attention to an abuse which causes the Cashier much annoyance. The operating officers inform their men that there is no reason known to them why payment should not be made on a certain day. The operating officers know nothing and can know nothing of the exigencies of business in this department. For example - some of the men were told that they would probably be paid on the 5th when in fact the heavy rolls only reached the Cashier after closing on that day. The operating officers ought not to take such liberties, as they take no risks, and only settle once a year, whereas your Cashier takes all risks and must settle every day, and he must settle to a cent.

The work on the rolls has never been deferred for an hour since I entered this office. So far as labor is involved we cheerfully perform it. But I must object

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to being hurried in handling money, by the supervisory-
 ableness of men (officers) who cannot understand
 that a man who has no "allowance for work" ^{cannot}
~~can~~ fling money carelessly into a crowd. The testimony
 of the oldest employees will show that the rolls have
 been promptly paid for at least seventeen years, sometimes
 at my loss.

Under these circumstances I beg to suggest that the
 day for the payment of the rolls be fixed for the 8th of
 the month instead of the 5th. This will allow for Sunday,
 and give ample time for strict supervision and alterations.
 This is not intended to reflect upon the rolls clerk, or the
 auditor, but to give them and the Cashier fair play.

Hon. Dan. M. Fox }
 Superintendent. }

Very Respectfully
 Wm. C. Fox
 Clerk

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,
Superintendent's Office,
October 7, 1887

Sir:

I beg to direct your attention to the disabilities under which the Cashier labors in preparing the payment of the rolls.

Owing to extension payments on a/c during the month, the adjustment of from two hundred to three hundred and fifty separate accounts is forced upon the Cashier. Such an adjustment, coupled with the necessity for counting the money twice in bulk for each roll, and three for each payee, necessitates time and great care. A blunder may let the Cashier in for a loss which cannot be reimbursed.

After the rolls leave the Clerk of the Rolls and the bookkeeper they go to the auditor (Mr. Blummer) for recalculation and verification. This is all done before the rolls can reach the Cashier, and were it a fact that the rolls began to reach the Cashier on the second day of the month and regularly there often until all were through, and if the last rolls reached the Cashier on the 4th day of the month in time to be adjusted before the daily settlement, payment could be made on the 5th of the month. But as a fact the September rolls reached us regularly not until the 4th inst., and the heaviest rolls, which needed adjustments in about 150 cases, only reached us on the 5th, the last at a quarter of three O'clock. It was impossible to serve the books and papers and balance sheets on the bookkeeper at a proper time and adjust those rolls; and in handling money it is absolutely necessary to have a regular time for closing against all comes. This is enforced elsewhere, and as our transactions are large and generally numerous, the reason why we should observe a regular closing hour is stronger than it is in very many departments of the Treasury.

I also desire to direct attention to an obverse which causes the Cashier much annoyance. The operative officers inform their men that there is no reason known to them why payment should not be made on a certain day. The operative officers know nothing and can know nothing of the exigencies of business in this department. For example – some of the men were told that they would probably be paid on the 5th when in fact the heavy rolls only reached the Cashier after closing on that day. The operative officers ought not to take such liberties, as they take no risks, and only settle over a year, whereas your cashier takes all risks and must settle every day, and he must settle to a cent.

The work on the rolls has never been deferred for an hour since I entered this office. So far as labor is involved we cheerfully perform it. But I must object to being hurried in handling money, by the super serviceableness of men (officers) who cannot understand that a man who has no "allowances for wastage" cannot fling money carelessly into a crowd. The testimony of the oldest employees will show that the rolls have been promptly paid for at least seventeen years, sometimes at my loss.

Under these circumstances I beg to suggest that the day for the payment of the rolls be fixed for the 8th of the month instead of the 5th. This will allow for Sunday and give ample time for strict supervision and alterations. This is not intended to reflect upon the rolls clerk, or the auditor, but to give them and the Cashier fair play.

Very Respectfully,
M.H. Cobb
Cash.

Hon. Dan. M. Fox
Superintendent